OCCASIONAL PRAYERS

BY

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METROPOLITAN

ܟܬܒܐ ܕܝܠܝ

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OCCASIONAL PRAYERS

PART I

(To be said by priests)

1

WHEN VISITING A HOUSE

St. Luke 10.38-42

"മാതാവും ശുദ്ധന്മാരും അർഷിക്കും....."

O Lord Jesus Christ, who came down from heaven, on account of your love for mankind and dwelt in a humble house in Nazareth, come to this house and bless it. You asked your disciples to say "peace be on this house", whichever house they would visit. Make your peace abide in this house. Bless everything in this house. May your life-giving cross be a fortress to this house. May your heavenly angels guard it. Protect the members of this house from all kinds of

sufferings, diseases and accidents. May their income and expenditure be for your glory. Bless all belongings, agriculture and animals. Multiply their income and make them generous in giving. Heal the sick and comfort the suffering. Help them to overcome thier difficulties courgeously. Grant them their legitimate desires.

Help the members of this family to love one another, to bear the burdens of one another, to forgive and respect one another. Bless all those who are far and near. May the saying of the Psalmist be fulfilled in them. "Behold how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity (Ps. 133.1).

O Lord, who called children to you and blessed them, bless our children. Grant them your grace and strength so that they may grow in your likeness. May the souls in the other world continue to grow. Grant that we may glorify you, your Father and your Holy

Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

2

WHILE LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE OF A HOUSE

Gen. 28:18-21, Ps. 127:1

"ദൈവത്തിന് സ്തോത്രം....."

O Lord, you said that it is not good for man to be alone and gave him a help-mate. You gave wisdom to build houses. The psalmist says "unless the Lord builds the house, those who build the house labour in vain". (Ps. 127:1) O Lord, you have told us that apart from you, we cannot do anything at all. (St. Jn: 15-5). Hence we start the work depending on your grace.

You said to Jacob "By you and your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed" (Gen. 28:14). May your children who are going to dwell in this house, be a blessing to this country. Jacob erected the stone which was used as a pillow and

poured oil on it. Later on it become the foundation stone for the temple of God. In a similar way, may this stone be the foundation for this house. Bless all the materials which are going to be used in the construction. Bless all those which are going to take part in the construction. Help your children so that the construction may be completed in time. May we offer praise and thanks to you, your Father and your Holy Spirit, now and always for ever. Amen.

The Priest blesses the foundation stone

This foundation stone is blessed in the name of the Father + and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit + Amen.

Laying down the foundation stone

The foundation stone is placed in the name of the Father + and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit + Amen.

3

WHEN THE FRAME OF THE DOOR AND BEAM ARE PLACED

Ex. 12:21-28

O Lord our God who bears our burdens daily and removes all trials beyond our strength and brings good out of all sufferings, we pray to you. Be you the guardian of this house. You saved the Israelites through the blood smeared on the door posts. You are the door. Grant that we may enter and get out through you. Protect this house from all sins and dangers. Bless all those who participate in the construction of this building. May we glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever. Amen.

Priest blessing the frame of the door and beam :-

This frame and beam are blessed in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Placing the frame and beam in the proper places :-

This frame is placed in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

4

BLESSING A PERSON

O Lord Jesus Christ, who blessed all those who came to you, bless this son/daughter. You said "Him who come to me I will never cast out". "Come unto me all who labor and are heavy laden. I will give you rest. (St. Matt. 11:28) Remove all burdens and sufferings . You know the needs and desires of your son / daughter more than we know. You care for us more than we care for us. You come to give us abundant life. Help your son / daughter to succeed in everything. Give him/her, health, wealth and wisdom. Enable him/ her to work for your glory and the prosperity of the world. Remove all vicious habits and fill him/her with love, humility and holiness. Help him/her to overcome all sufferings through faith, hope and courage. May his/

her debts and sins be forgiven. May we offer glory to you, your Father and your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

5

BLESSING THE CHILDREN

(St. Mark 10 : 13-16)

O Lord who called the children to you and blessed them, bless this child. O Lord who blessed the childhood of Jacob and brought forth the living promise through him, bless this child and bring him/her up to the joy of his/her parents. Bless him/her in body, mind and soul. As it is written of infant Jesus, may this child also be filled with wisdom, strengthened in spirit and may your grace be upon him/her.

6

BLESSING A PATIENT

O Lord I lay my hand on this patient in order that

your invisible hand be placed on him/her. O Lord you said "Heal the sick, raise up the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out the demons; freely have you received, freely give". Send your healing power on this son/daughter. Visit us in your love and mercy. Send your grace on him/her. Grant your help to him/her. Strengthen him/her with unfailing hope. Remove all kinds of pain and severe punishments. Grant him/her cheerful countenance casting away sadness. Grant that he/she may thank you and do everything for your glory. May his/her debts and sins be forgiven. May we glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

7

BLESSING WATER

O Lord, bless this water with all blessings. Make this water the spring of healing with the presence of the Holy Spirit. Fill this water with your gifts. Moses

removed the bitterness of the water at Mara by putting a twig into it. Prophet Elisha put salt into the water at Jericho and made it productive. May this water give healing and protection from evil spirits.

Making the sign of the cross on the water

This water is blessed for the healing of the body, mind and soul, for the purification of the houses and protection from the evils, in the name of the Father + Son + and the Holy Spirit + for ever. Amen.

8

WHEN FIRST - FRUITS AND TITHES ARE BROUGHT

(Devt. 15 : 19; 26 : 1-2)

O Lord, bless these first - fruits and tithes we have brought from our labour. O Lord you promised to give the mist of the air, the fertility of the earth and the abundance of wheat and wine to Abraham. You are

giving sunshine and rain to us enabling our crops to grow. Accept our offerings we have brought as our gratitude. As you had accepted the first fruits of Abraham, Isac and Jacob accept these offerings and bless us. Multiply and increase the crops. Bless the fields and animals. May your children glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always for ever Amen.

9

WHEN FREE-WILL OFFERINGS ARE BROUGHT

Malachi : 3:10

O Lord, in addition to the first fruits and tithes we are expected to give you free will offerings. Grant us a thankful heart as the Psaemist who said "What shall I render to the Lord, for all his bounty to me" (Ps. 116:12). David the king said that he was only giving back what he had received from you, when he offered a lot of money and precious things. Help us to

understand that all that we have are your gifts. May we glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always for ever, Amen.

10

WHEN CHILDREN OR PRIESTS ARE GIVEN A SPECIAL FEAST.

St. Matt. 18 :1-5, St. Matt. 10:40-42

O Lord, our love for the poor and the ministers of the church are considered by you as the love extended to you. Bless the son/daughter who is conducting this feast. Bless the sick and the suffering of this family. Grant that we glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever, Amen.

11

WHEN THE BANNER IS HOISTED AT THE BEGINING OF A FESTIVAL

Numbers 21:1-9, St. Jn. 3:14 Prov. 10:7

"യേശു പിതൃസുതനെ....."

O Lord your cross is the banner of your victory over Satan, world, sin and death. You said that all power is given to you in heaven and earth after your resurrection. Those who were bitten by serpants were healed when they looked up to the brazen serpant hoisted in the middle of the camp of the Israelites. We who look up to your cross will be saved in a similar way.

Salomon the wise has told us that the memory of the righteous will be for blessing. St. Paul has advised us to remember those who have spoken the word of God and guided us and follow their faith. May the prayers of this saint whose festivel is celebrated, be a blessing for us. May this be an occasion for the dedication of the whole parish and its members. Inflame us with the desire to follow the example of St. Mary, the apostles and the martyrs.

Bless all those who seek the intercession of your

saints. St. James has told us that the prayers of a righteous person availeth much. May the prayers of our saint be a blessings to all of us.

Grant that we may glorify your name, now and always for ever. Amen.

While hoisting the banner

This banner is hoisted in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen.

12

WHEN CHILDREN ARE ENTRUSTED TO A SAINT FOR SPECIAL PROTECTION AND BLESSING

Numbers 6:1-12

O Lord, we commit this boy/girl to the special protection and blessing of St..... Bless this boy/girl in body, mind and soul. Help us to bring up this boy/girl in a dedicated life, following the example of Samuel who was brought up in a godly life by his mother

Hannah and the priest Eli. May we glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever, Amen.

13

WHEN THE CHILD COMPLETES THE OBLIGATORY PERIOD

Gal. 6:17

O Lord, we are your servants. Help us to offer ourselves to a life of love and to live as your children. Bless this child as the obligatory days are over. Continue to bless him/her. May the guardian angel continue to guard him/her. As St. Paul says, help us to glorify you whether we eat or drink, or whatever we do. May we glorify you, now and always and for ever, Amen.

14

PRAYER FOR THE MOTHER AND CHILD AFTER DELIVERY

Ps. 103 : 1-3

O Lord you are our leader, helper and refuge in

all times of needs and sufferings. We thank you for all the blessings showered upon this mother and child. We thank you following the example of David the king : "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is in me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord O my soul and forget not his benefits" (Ps. 103: 1-2)

May we glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always for ever, Amen.

15

WHEN THE NEW COMMITTEE OF THE CHURCH TAKES UP THE CHARGE

(Also for Dioceasan council and managing committee of the church)

Ex. 18:13-27, St. Matt. 25:14-30

"നിന്നെ വിളിക്കുന്നേ നാഥാ!....."

O Lord, you appointed your disciples to lead the church. Bless those who are elected to serve the parish (diocese/ church). We know how able men were elected to help Moses in the administration. Help them

to do everything amicably and honestly. Make them work as coworkers. Grant that we may hear your greeting words " Good and faithful servant, you were faithful in little things, I will authorize you in higher things".

May we offer glory to you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always for ever. Amen.

16

WHEN THE COMMITTEE MEETS

(Also for diocesan council and church managing committee)

Ps. 73:23-24, Is. 11:1-2, St. Jn. 16:13

O Lord, you have promised that where two or three are gathered together, in your name, you will be with them, Now O Lord, be with us in this meeting and guide us. Send your spirit of wisdom and discretion. Apart from you, we cannot do anything at all. We are in need of your help even in small things. Help us to understand that you are working through others and

listen to the opinions and ideas of others. Let our decisions be the decisions of the Holy Spirit. May we glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever, Amen.

17

PRAYER FOR THE PARISH ASSEMBLY, DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY AND THE ASSOCIATION

St. Lk. 10:1-11, I Pet. 2:1-9, Ps. 73:23-24, Is. 11:1-2, St. Jn. 16:13

O Lord, you have entrusted all the mysteries to the church. You appointed persons to administer the church. Bless this assembly which has gathered to elect people to plan the necessary things for the parish (diocese, church). We know how Mathias was elected in the place of Judas Iscariat, how seven deacans were elected and how a decision was taken about circumcesion. Let our decisions be according to your will. O Lord guide us and control us. Help us to understand that assemblies are not the places to

exhibit our abilities or to put down anyone in public. Help us to withdraw from anything which may wound your heart. Grant that worthy people may be elected to responsible positions. Grant that we may not work as people in authority but as people doing your sevice. Grant that we may offer glory to you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever, Amen.

18

WORKING COMMITTEE OF THE CHURCH

Joshua 1:1-9, Ps. 73:23,24, Is. 11:1-2, St. Jn. 16:13

O Lord, you brought up prophets, judges and kings to fulfill your will. Bless this committee to make proper decision and to execute the decisions sincerely and honestly. May we offer glory to you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and forever.

19

EPISCOPAL SYNOD

St. Lk. 9:1-6, St. Matt. 28:18-20, St. Jn. 20:21-23,

St. Jn. 21:15-17, Acts 2:1-13, Acts 20:17-35, 1 Pet. 5:1-11, Ps. 73:23-24

O Lord Jesus Christ who sent your disciples saying "As the Father sent me, so I send you", help us to follow your example and work as kings, prophets and priests. Help us to lead the sheep showing the best example. Help us to do your will without compulsion and without any selfish motives. Help us to transform people as your children through our prayers and teachings. Help us to guide them without making them angry. Enable us to proclaim the gospel so that no one may be lost. May we glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever, Amen.

20

CLERGY MEETING

Num: 11:16-17, 23-29, St. Lk. 9:1-6, St. Matt. 28:18-20, St. Jn. 20:21-23, St. Jn. 21:15-17, Acts 20:17-35, I Pet. 5:1-11, St. Jn. 9:12, Ps. 73:23-24, Is. 11:1-2 St.Jn. 16:13

O Lord, help us to see our metropolitan as your

representative and obey him. Help us to execute our responsibilities out of love for you. Help us to have the spirit of St. Paul who said "If we live, we live to the Lord; if we die, we die to the Lord"

May we give glory to you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever, Amen.

21

MEETING OF THE DEACONS AND ALTAR BOYS

Acts 6:1-7, St. Mk. 10:45, St. Jn. 13:1-17, I Timi: 3: 8-10, Rom 16:1-2, I Cori. 12:4-30, St. Mk. 12:41-44

Ps. 84: 10-12, II Sam. 6:12-22

O Lord bless the deacons and the altar boys. O Lord who washed the feet of the disciples and taught us to serve one another in humility, help us to serve one another in worship and practical life. Help us to understand that as the different organs deserve equal respect and honor, we have to respect every one. Just

as David the king humbled himself and danced before the ark of the covenant help us to worship you in utter humility. Just as Samuel avoided the company of bad children and led a godfearing and obedient life, help us the deacons and altar boys to lead a holy and obedient life. Just as deacon Stephan filled with the Holy Spirit proclaimed the gospal, help the deacons and altar boys to proclaim the gospel. May we offer glory to you, your Father and your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever, Amen.

22

ABSOLUTION GIVEN TO PRIESTS

May the God who blessed the holy apostles bless you. May He keep you from the vices of the left side and fill you with the virtues of the right side. May the Lord help you to follow all the commandments and make you an instrument befitting His glory. May He be comforted by you and you be comforted by Him. May

you be blessed, comforted and purified for eternal life in the name of the Father +Son +and Holy Spirit. Amen.

23

SHORT ABSOLUTION

St. Jn. 20:21-23

May God the Father Almighty, have mercy upon you and lead you to eternal life. May God forgive you all the debts and sins you have confessed and you have forgotten, for eternal life in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

24

PREPARATION FOR THE HOLY QURBANA

Prumeon

Glory be to the Lord who magnified the memories of His mother, and all saints in his mercy and sanctified the faithful departed.

Sedro

The holy fathers who served as priests of the law, and patriarchs who pleased you from the begining, especially the prophets who revealed your coming, the apostles who preached your gospel, the martys who welcomed death, the teachers who kept up your truth, the priests who served in the Holy Sanctuary, the deacons who did your will, who worked with zeal in your vineyard, the anchorites, the monks who begged their food and Stylites who left their kindred and dear ones and followed you taking up their cross, all those with them, before them and after them and St. Mary the glory of the whole world, the second heaven , the undefiled, Mother of God, will pray for us and on behalf of us. Through her prayers and the prayers of all saints set at naught, all punishments and rods of wrath Lead us quietly all the days of our life in your peace and concord. O Lord visit the sick in your power, comfort the suffering in your mercy. Grant comfort and

good memorial to all the souls who have slept in true faith. May we offer glory to you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever, Amen.

25

MEDITATION BEFORE HOLY QURBANA

Ex. 12: 21-26

O God as we prepare to stand before your altar and offer awesome and bloodless sacrifices for our sins and all the sins of the whole mankind, we are filled with fear and trembling. Therefore send forth your grace and purify our body, mind and soul. Purify our faith so that we may offer this thanksgiving sacrifice.

O heavenly Father, reject me not as one filled with impurities through a multitude of sins. I approach your holy and heavenly mysteries, not depending on my worthiness, but only on your goodness. I raise up my voice to you. O God have mercy on me a sinner. I have sinned against you. I am

stained in every way with filthiness.

O Lord Jesus Christ, I who am unworthy, come now to your holy and spiritual table of life. Therefore strengthen me and make me worthy for this service. Send upon me your Holy Spirit the comforter, Enable me to proclaim your word without any defect.

O God the Father, look upon your unworthy servant and forgive me all my sins in your compassion. Purify my lips and heart from all impurities of the body and soul. Make me worthy for this service through the power of the Holy Spirit, removing all shameful and foolish thoughts. When I approach this altar accept me in your grace on account of your goodness. Be kind enough to accept the offerings given through my weak hands.

We thank you for the courage to enter your sanctuary through the veil of the body of your only begotten son, a new and living way. We prostrate

before you as we are counted worthy to enter the tent of glory, to be inside the sanctuary and to see the holy of holies. May we glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always for ever, Amen.

26

WHEN VEHICLES ARE BLESSED (PS. 121)

O Lord, all scientific inventions are your blessings. You have given them for men's use. Now your son is presenting this vehicle for your blessings. Be with this vehicle and protect it. May the Holy Spirit control it. Be you the light and lamp in all ways. Protect this vehicle from all accidents and the attacks of the devil. May your son/daughter be satisfied by the use of this vehicle and be of service to others. May we offer glory to you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever.

(Making the sign of the cross on the vehicle)

This vehicle is blessed and purified in the name of the Father+ Son+ and Holy Spirit+

OCCASIONAL PRAYERS

PART II

(Prayers to be said by priests and the faithful)

1

MORNING DEDICATION

Ps. 5:3 St. Mk. 1:35

"സ്വർഗ്ഗീയപിതാവേ! നിൻ തിരുഹിതം ...."

O heavenly Father, we thank you for the rest and protection we had last night and the morning of this new day. Help us not to do anything of which we shall be ashamed. Keep us from all crookedness and wrong deeds. Help us to have truth and holiness We dedicate ourselves today entirely into your hands. Be with us and help us to do our work with good-will, and overcome difficult things courageously. Help us through your Holy Spirit to impart joy and do good to those who are weaken than us. Help us to be pure in thought,

word and deed, to be kind to one another, to be honest in all dealings and to forgive those who hurt us. May we offer up praise and thanks to you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever.

2

MORNING PRAISE

"പുലരിയിൽ നിദ്രയുണർന്നങ്ങെ....."

O Lord, the master of the whole world, make us worthy to lead this day in righteousness without the stain of sin. Protect us O God the God of our fathers. You are blessed, praised and glorified for ever. Amen. As our dependance is in you, may your grace and mercy be upon us. O Lord you are blessed. Teach us and show us the way of your commandments. Show us in your grace the way of your scriptures. Holy Lord enlighten us through your light. May your grace be upon us always. O Lord reject not the work of your hand. Praise is due to you. Glory is befitting to you, O

Father Son and Holy Spirit. Glory is due to you for ever Amen.

3

EVENING PRAYER

(St. Mk. 6:46)

"എന്നാത്മാവിൻ ക്ഷീണത്തെ....."

O heavenly Father, in this evening we commend ourselves into your hands. Grant us protection. Help us to sleep in peace and rise up in the morning in safety. Don't allow anything displeasing to you and things devilish, touch our abode. Be you with our souls and bodies at all times.

In order that we may be always with you, let our thoughts be about you while in sleep and when awake. As the rising sun enlightens our eyes when we wake up, let the Holy Spirit enlighten our souls. Fill our hearts with thoughts about you when we wake up and during this whole day. Strengthen us so that we may keep

our minds pure, and walk only through your ways. Keep us away from selfish ways and self glory. Grant sleep and rest to all. Give your special protection to those who are awake in the night and working. Keep us all in your eternal arms. Whether we sleep or are awake, give us your peace. May we offer praise to you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever, Amen.

4

PRAYER BEFORE MEAL

Ps 145: 15-16, St Mat. 6:26

"അന്നന്ന് ഞങ്ങൾക്കുള്ളതെല്ലാം തന്നാ"

O Lord, make us worthy to praise and worship you, remembering that the food and drink are given in your grace and your mercy, Amen.

5

PRAYER AFTER MEAL

(I Thess 5:18)

O God, praise be to you on account of your grace

and blessings. Praise be to you as you have fed us and satisfied us. Since we live eating and drinking from your resourses, praise be to you on account of your mercy. Make us worthy to praise you and do your will, Amen.

6

WHEN WE HEAR THE BELL FOR WORSHIP

Acts. 2:46

Make the sign of the cross saying "Bless me Lord" or "Lord make me worthy, to praise you for all your works of salvation.

7

WHEN WE KISS THE CROSS

Help us O Jesus, to bear your death always on our bodies so that we may manifest your life. Help us to bear the sufferings of others.

8

WHEN WE KISS THE GOSPEL

Matt. 4:4

O God help us to live according to your words.

9

BEFORE READING THE BIBLE

Open our eyes O Lord that we may see wondrous things out of your law. Grant that me may escape the craftiness of the deceitful evil one, and that we may do your will and grow in virtues.

10

AFTER READING THE BIBLE

Grant us O Lord, that we may live our whole life in the light of the Holy Bible. Grant that your words may bear fruit thirty fold, sixty fold and hundred fold. Amen.

11

AT THE BEGINING OF THE PRAYER MEETING

Heb : 10:24-25

O Lord who promised that where two or three are gathered together in your name, You will be with them, grant your presence with us. Grant that this coming together may result in our spiritual growth, the progress of this parish and its unity. Grant that there may be more of mutual understanding and co - operation. Help us to work as members of the same body, helping and respecting one another. Comfort the sorrowful. Heal the sick. Foster the orphans and the widows. May the word that is proclaimed here, be a light in our way of life. May we offer praise and thanks to you, Your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always for ever, Amen.

12

AT THE END OF THE PRAYER MEETING

Merciful Lord, we thank you for the time spent with you, hearing your word, meditating and singing songs. O Lord! accept our prayers and answer us. Bless this house and all our houses. Sustain us in our faith in you, in our love towards you and our obedience to you. Grant that we live in this transitory world in concord praising you. Grant that we may not love or depend on anything or anyone, more than you.

Our creator, we offer ourselves and all that we have before you. Rule over us and guide us according to your will. Protect us in this life, from all sufferings, pestilence, sudden death and diseases. Bless our bishops, priests and all religious workers. Bless all those in the government service. Help them to execute their "duties in truth and justice". May we offer praise and thanks to you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever, Amen.

13

AT THE BEGINING OF MEDITATION

St. Mk. 6:31, St. Lk. 5:15,16; St. Matt. 6:6

O Lord who called your desipies to a lonely place saying "you come away to a lonely place and rest a while", grant that this retreat may be an occasion to find rest and comfort, to those in the burdens and problems of life. O Lord you went up a hill and began to preach when you found the multitude. Now grant that we may hear your word. On an occasion when a multitude of people came to hear your word and to get healed of the diseases, you departed into a lonely place to pray showing the importance of private prayer and meditation. Help us to make the best use of this meditation. O Lord who asked us to shut the door and pray to the Father in secret, help us to close our external eyes and ears and open the internal eyes and ears. Let us not be anxious over many things like

Martha, but sit down at your feet like Mary and hear from you.

O Holy Spirit who guides us in all truth, help us in our thoughts, self examination and decision makings. Convict us about sin, righteousness and judgement. Help us to hunger and thirst for righteousness. Inflame us with love for you. Give our leader wisdom and power of speech. May we glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always for ever, Amen.

14

AT THE END OF THE MEDITATION

St. Lk. 4:14-15, Acts 2:36,37, Acts 13:2, Is. 6:8

O Lord we praise you for having comforted, encouraged and strengthened us. We thank you for all the blessings showered upon us this day. Help us to continue to meditate on the words we have heard. Let those words ferment us like yeast. Help us to bear

fruit abundantly like the seeds which fell on fertile ground.

As St. Paul said "I am crucified with Christ. I no longer live but Christ lives in me". Let us have the experience of your abiding in us. Let us be crucified with you through Holy confession and Holy Qurbana. As you went to the synagogues and preached with power and all praised you, use us as instruments in your hands. As the Apostles were worshipping and fasting, the Holy Spirit asked them to set apart Barnabas and Saul for the work they were called for, give us the awareness of our calling. As Isaiah heard your call "When shall I send ? Who will go for us ? and he dedicated himself to go, help us to dedicate ourselves to your service. May we glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and forever, Amen.

15

PRAYER FOR A TRIBE OF FAMILIES

Ps. 2:43-47

O God our heavenly Father, you are the fathe of all mankind. Since they are your children, they are our brothers and our sisters. When we love you with the whole heart, soul and mind, we have to love you children also in the same way. St. Paul said "If anyone does not provide for his relatives and especially for his own family, he has disowned the faith and is worse than an unbeliever (I Timi 5:8). Hence we have the special duty to care for our relatives. O Lord, you entrusted your mother to St. John. We are given the command to honor our parents so that our days may be long. May the relationship between the parents and children be strengthened by divine love. As a result of this coming together, help us to grow in mutual love and respect.

Grant that the members of the various branches of this tribe progress in mutual love and help. Help us to start new enterprises for the betterment of the families. It is written in the Holy Bible that there was no one in need in the early church. May this be fullfilled in these families also. Bless all the members and branches of this tribe. Even when we may belong to different denominations, help us to realize that we all belong to one big family and have to love and respect one another. May alcoholism, drugs, smoking, luxuries, impurity and crimes be completely eradicated from us. Strengthen everyone in holiness and self control. May honesty, generosity and hard working nature dominate.

Fill us with devine love so that we may extend our helping hands to those outside this tribe. Help us to lead simple lives and set apart tithes so that we may be enabled to give maximum help to one another. May

we offer glory to you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever. Amen.

16

BEFORE A SERMON

Heb. 3:13

Hear our prayer O Lord, as we have come to hear your life giving word, and to study it. As you filled the disciples with wisdom through the Holy Spirit, send the Holy Spirit upon us and enlighten us to understand your word. You filled the uneducated fishermen with wisdom to the wonder of even philosephers. Fill us with wisdom so that we may bear and proclaim it. Help us to achieve knowledge and live with true piety according to your will. Cast away from us all the evil passions that harm us. Enlighten our inner eyes through your word, so that we escape the traps of the evil one and walk in your glorious paths. Strengthen our hearts to obey your commandments

and our hands to do deeds of love. Grant that we alll may know love and serve you properly in this world and enjoy in your eternal bliss in the world to come. May we offer glory to you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever, Amen.

17

AFTER THE SERMON

St. James 1:22

O Lord, we thank you for the living words we have heard this day. Let them be a lamp to our feet, light to our ways and guide to our life. Grant that we may keep them in our memory. Help us to live daily according to your word, overcoming all difficulties, and wordly attractions. Let it bear fruit like the seeds that fall on fertile ground. Help us to seek your will always O God, we lift up our hearts to you. Show us the way we should follow. Keep us from all sins and lead us in righteousness in our public and private life.

Make us worthy for the joy of the goodness of your bridal chamber. May we offer glory to you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always for ever. Amen

18

PRAYER WHILE PREPARING FOR CONFESSION

(St. Lk. 15:11-24, 18 : 9-14; Ps. 51)

O God, the most merciful Father, I thank you for all your mercies and kindness showered upon me, your unworthy servant. Especially I thank you for this moment for drawing me to you. Grant me repentance for all my sins, great and small.

O Holy Spirit, convince me of sin, rightiousness and judgement. Help me to find out all the hidden sins in me and to realize that I have sinned against you only, as David confessed. O Lord the Holy Spirit who intercedes for us with groanings which cannot be uttered, grant me real repentance.

O Lord Jesus Christ, the Good one who died for our sins, cast me not away, on account of my transgressions and ingratitude. Rebuke me not in your wrath. In you only have I put my trust for my salvation. Where am I to go for the remission of my sins except you ?. O most merciful one, have mercy upon me. Reject not my humble and contrite heart. Sustain me in faithfulness and loyalty. Give me complete repentance of all my sins. I know that since you love me, whole-heartedly even the smallest of my sin is most painful to you. Help me to take and give up my sins with the deepest sorrow. Help me to confess my sins befre the priest, your representative in utter humility and contrite heart. O Lord who instituted the new covenant in your blood, help me to crucify the old man in me and start a new life, renewing my baptismal covenant. Just as I renounced Satan in the Holy Baptism, let me renounce all my sins in this Holy confession. Just as I declared my faith in you as

master and saviour in Holy Baptism, let me surrender myself to you whole-heartedly to lead a godly life by this Holy confession.

Grant that I may glorify your holy name now and always and for ever. Amen.

19

PRAYER BEFORE CONFESSION

I, a sinner, confess my sins before God Almighty, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. I confess also to ever virgin St. Mary, Mother of God, to Mar Michael and Mar Gabriel, the chief among the angels, to St. Peter and St. Paul, the chiefs among the apostles, to the seventy two evangelists, to the holy fathers of the ecumenical synods held at Nicea, Constantenople and Ephesus. My reverent spiritual father, I believe that whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven and whatever you loose on earth, will be loosend in heaven. I am a sinner in thought word

and deed. I am a great sinner. My sins are great and many. Therefore I confess before you. You are a mediator for me before God and I seek mercy and forgiveness through you, Amen.

20

PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION SAID BY THE PRIEST

May God the Father, all sovereign and almighty, have mercy upon you and lead you to eternal life. Through the authority which our Lord Jesus Christ had bestowed upon the holy apostles and the holy apostles on the bishops and the bishops on me, in my weakness. O blessed brother/sister, I absolve you of all sins, you have confessed as well as you have forgotten, committed by day and by night, mortal and incidental. I release you from all bondages, curses, punishments and injunctions unto eternal life, in the name of the Father+and of the Son + and of the Holy

Spirit + through the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ.

May the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ be for the remission of your deeds and the forgiveness of your sins. May the intercession of St. Mary, Mother of God, be also for the remission of your debts and the forgiveness of your sins.

21

PRAYER BEFORE RECEIVING HOLY QURBANA

O Lord Jesus Christ, you are the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. You spoke of your body and blood as follows : " I am the bread of life. I am the bread of life that came down from heaven. He who eats this bread shall live for ever. The bread that I give is my flesh. Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, you have no life in you. He who eats from my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me and I in him. I will raise him at the last

day". O Lord, you ate the Passover with your disciples saying "with desire have I desired to eat this Passover with you" Then you took bread and blessed it and you gave it to the disciples saying, "Take this and eat. This is my body". So also you took the cup of wine, blessed it and gave it to the discples saying "Drink all of you from this. This is my blood of the new covenant, shed for the forgiveness of many". The following day all these words were fulfilled in your crucifixion. My Lord and my God, I draw near to receive the live coal which is your body and blood according to your command. Lord I am not worthy that you enter my abode. But you became man while remaining God. You mingled with the publicans and sinners. You humbled yourself even to death on the cross. Therefore kindly enter into my heart. I dedicate myself to receive the grace I have forfeited and to live as your son/daughter. O Saviour ! full of mercy, accept me and make me worthy

to receive your precious body and blood, Amen.

22

PRAYER WHILE RECEIVING THE HOLY QURBANA

I receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is the propitiating live coal for the remission of debts and forgiveness of sins in both worlds. Amen.

23

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING HOLY QURBANA

Ps. 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil. For thou art with me. Thy rod and thy

staff, they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies. Thou annointest my head with oil. My cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me, all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever, Amen.

24

A PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

I Thes. 5:18

O Lord God Almighty, make us worthy to offer praise and thanks to you with a heart full of gratitude. O God our heavenly Father, you are our creator and sustainer. Therefore we worship you. O Christ, you are our redeemer and saviour. Therefore we worship you. O God the Holy Spirit, you purify us, guide us and perfect us. Therefore we worship you. O Holy Trinity we praise you for having revealed yourself to the church and accepted us as its members. O Lord we praise you for the wisdom given to us to know you. We

thank you for giving us the heart to love you. We glorify you for the mind to obey you and to do your will. We praise you for the body to serve you, the scul to receive you and the time to be spent in you, with you and for you. Especially we magnify you for all the helps and blessings you have given us this day, Amen.

25

WHEN SEEDS ARE SOWN

Bless this agriculture so that seeds that are sown sprout, and grow without the harm of pests and produce harvest of a thirty fold, sixty fold and hundred fold. Grant that we may harvest with joy and give your first fruits and tithes, Amen.

26

FOR FAVOURABLE SEASON

(Joel 2:23-24)

O Lord, al! the powers of nature are under your

control. You make your sun rise on the evil and the good, and send rain on the just and the unjust. Have mercy on those who call upon you. Fill our hearts with joy giving us heavenly blessings and seasons of plenty. Prevent all obstacles and multiply our crops thirty fold, sixty fold and hundred fold. Grant that we may thank you for all the good we receive from you. May we offer praise and thanks to you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever. Amen.

27

PRAYER FOR RAIN

I Kings 18:1

O God, the creator of every thing, water is essential for the sustinance of men, animals and plants. Summer, winter, rain and dew are your creation. You gave Israelites water to drink from the rock. You changed the bitter water of Marah to become sweet. Let us not be destroyed on account of draught. You

have promised that you will never cast out any one who comes to you. You said, "Ask and it shall be given, seek you shall find". Give us the blessing of rain and comfort us. Grant that we the destitutes and sinners and all the living beings, eat and drink and glorify you. May we give glory to you, your Father and your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever, Amen.

28

PRAYER TO STOP TOO MUCH OF RAIN

Gen. 8:20-22

O Lord our God, punish us not with too much of rain and flood. Let not our agriculture and animals perish. Where are we to find refuge, except your feet ? To whom are we to tell our sorrows ?. We have only you. Therefore stretch forth your loving hand, and bless us, stopping the rains. Grant that we may glorify you for all the help we receive, Amen.

29

TO REMOVE PESTS

Joel 2:25

O Lord we pray to you to prevent all the pests and devastating wind from agriculture. All the living and nonliving things are subject to your control. As a result of the prayer of Moses and the incense of Aaron, you cast away wrath and pestilence. Now save our agriculture from pestilence. Grant that we may glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever Amen.

30

IN THE TIME OF HARVEST

Prov. 3:9-10, St. Lk. 12:15-21

O Lord, as we gather the fruit of our labour, we thank you for your blessings. Let us not become proud in our abundance, but thank you for your gifts. Make us humble remembering that we have only what we

have received from you. Also help us to realize the truth that all that we have received are to be used for the common good of mankind. Grant that we may glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit, now and always for ever, Amen.

31

PRAYER FOR A JOB

Ps. 145:5-16

O merciful Lord who brings up all living beings, you understand the needs, desires and sufferings of every one. Grant that your son may have a job for his livelihood. May the authorities be kind enough to him. Help him to cast all his burdens on you. Grant that we may glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit for all your blessings, Amen.

32

WHEN A NEW WORK IS STARTED

O Lord our God, who helps us to work decently

and guides us in the proper way, help us to start the works allotted to us as an oppertunity to work for the common good of humanity. May he be an example to all in honesty and respectfulness. Help him to yield to the higher authorities and co-operate with the co-workers.

Keep him from earning money through illegal ways. Strengthen him to donate generously for your glory and the needs of your children. May we glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever, Amen.

33

PRAYER OF THE MERCHANTS

Deut : 25:13-16

O Lord who said to Adam, "that he should eat his bread in his sweat" (Gen. 3:19) you want every one to do different jobs to earn a living. Let us do everything for the common good of mankind.

Help us to do everything with truthfulness and

honesty avoiding all falsehood and adulteration. Help us to see that our good and the good of others as complementary. Protect us from all diseases, accidents and failures. Grant that we may glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever.

34

WHEN A NEW BUSINESS IS STARTED

Joshua 1: 1-7, Is. 43: 1-2, Ps. 34: 5-8

O Lord who took Abraham, the father of the faithful, to another country and blessed him and his children, bless the new business started by your son. Help him to do everything trusting in your grace. May all those who take part in this enterprise do everything in unity, good-will, honesty and mutual respect.

Help them to understand the needs and difficulties of one another, to make necessary compromises and to co-operate. May they remove all misunderstandings and prejudices through open talks.

Help them to avoid anger, and insults. Keep them from all revenge, fighting and hard punishments. Help us all to work as members of the same body. Let all understand that we are only stewards in your house-hold and spend our time, talents and money for charitable purposes.

Guard us from liquor, drugs, smoking and all extravagance. May we owners and workers, glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever, Amen.

35

WHEN WORKERS CAUSE TROUBLE

Acts. 15:1-28

"എന്റെ ദൈവം മഹത്വത്തിൽ....."

O God who helped Abraham the father of the faithful and his nephew Lot to settle their problems amicably, help us to solve the problems of this institution. Help us to understand that the loving relationship is more important than wealth. Help us to

see everyone as your child. Give us the true vision that whenever we pain anyone, we are paining you and when we comfort anyone we are making you rejoice. Let all our dealings be based on your eternal laws of justice, love and brotherliness.

Help us to avoid selfishness, pride, cruelty and enmity. Lead us in mutual love and toleration. May the owners and workers work together for the common good. Avoid all disputes, competitions and deadlocks.

Free us from the craving for too much profit and unlawful income. Let everyone work honestly and receive legitimate wages. Let all the transactions be based on truthfulness.

O Lord who said "Blessed are the peace makers. For they shall be called the children of God", remove all disputes in this institution and bless all the attempts to establish peace and concord. Help us to understand the problems patiently and to find out the

solution prayerfully. May we glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit. Amen.

36

FOR COMPLETE SURRENDER

St. Math. 26:36-39

"തുണയെനിക്കേശുവാം....."

O Lord, I don't know what I should ask; you know all my needs. You love me more than I love me. O Father, fulfill all the needs of your son/daughter. I don't have the courage to ask for anything. I simply offer myself to you. I open my heart to you. You see my needs which I myself don't know. Do to me according to your will. Even when I don't understand your will, I praise you in silence. I offer myself as a sacrifice. I have no other desire but that your will may be fulfilled in me. Teach me to pray. Abiding in me , O Lord do everything for me. May I offer praise and thanks to you for ever, Amen.

37

WHEN WE GET A JOB OR GREAT BLESSING

Deut 8:10, Ps. 103:1-13

O Lord who gives all gifts and perfect blessings, help us to offer thanks with a heart full of gratitude. Your son's/daughter's exaltation was not achieved through his/her merit alone. It is because you are good and because you wanted to bring good to the world through us. You blessed Jacob on his flight to Haran, not because he deserved it. In a similar way you have blessed your son/daughter and made him/her a blessing to the world . Make him/her work with a sense of thankfulness to you and glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit, now and always for ever, Amen.

38

PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO START A JOURNEY.

Gen. 28:10-22

O Lord, who bears all people in the palm of your

hand, guides every one knowing their needs and desires, we remember all those who are now travelling on land, sea and air. Especially we remember our dear ones who are now travelling. Protect them and guide them in unfavourable weather and, tempest and protect them from robbers. You protected Abraham in his journeys, Jacob in his flight to Haran and David in his hideouts. Now protect and guide your son/ daughter who is on his/her journey.

39

BETROTHEL

Gen. 24 : 1-4, 10-19, II Cor. 11:2

"സ്തോത്രങ്ങൾ പാടി....."

O Jesus Christ ! you said that the creator created man as male and female, that man shall leave his father and mother and shall be united with his wife and that the two shall become one. Hence marriage is instituted by you. It is holy. It is inseparable. That which

God united, man shall not separate. O Lord, let this engagement be according to your will. You helped Isaac to find a sutable bride. Lord, help us that this marriage may take place at the proper time and that your children may have a happy married life. Grant that we may glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever.

40

WHEN ONE STARTS FOR MARRIAGE

Hosh. 2:19-20

O Jesus Christ, the heavenly bride groom, you accepted the church as your bride. You love a crown of thorns and offered your life for the church, as a sacrifice. Fill your children who are going to be married to-day, with your love. Give them the spirit of giving first place to the partner in life. Help them to follow the example of the relationship between you and the church. Make them love each other, bear the burdens of each other and respect each other, there

by winning the love and respect of each other. Help them to have self - control, understanding that nobody is beyond short temper, misunderstanding and prejudice. Help us to understand that the married life is a preparation for our life in the coming world. Grant that we may glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever, Amen.

41

MARRIAGE ANNIVERSARY

Epr. 5 : 21-32, Ruth 1: 1-22

O Lord we thank you for helping your children to lead a happy married life in peace and concord. Protect your children from all sufferings, diseases and misfortunes. Keep us from misunderstandings, prejudices and anger. Help them to fulfill the responsibilites they had taken up at the time of their marriage. Enable them to help each other, bear the burdens of each other and respect each other.

Help them to bring up their children in piety so that they may serve you, the church and society. Guide them so that they may become a good example to other families. Grant that this life in this world may be a preparation for the coming world. May we glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever, Amen.

42

MARRIAGE JUBILEE

Eph. 5:21-32

O God our heavenly Father, we thank you for all the blessings you had showered upon your children all these years and to celebrate this jubilee. You gave them health and helped them to have a happy married life setting a good example to others. Help us to get perfected in your likeness, good fortune or misfortune. Grant that we may glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever, Amen.

43

PRAYER WHEN SENT FOR DELIVERY

"നല്ലദേവനെ, ഞങ്ങൾ എല്ലാവരേയും....."

O Lord, you are the life-giving God. We thank you for the child formed in the womb of its mother. May your grace be with the child in its growth. As the child John was filled with joy in its mother's womb, along with the mother Elizabeth, grant that the mother and the child may be guided by the Holy Spirit. Keep her from all fear and anxiety. Protect her from all diseases and sufferings. O Lord who said "Peace I give you, not as the world gives" grant her courage and hope. May your guidance and blessings be with all the medical check-up and treatments. Just as Sara and Elizabeth were enabled to have safe delivery in their old age, give the necessary blessings to your daughter. May we glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always for ever, Amen.

44

WHEN A CHILD IS BORN

St. Lk. 1:57,58,80

"Bless the Lord my soul, Bless his holy name, all that is within me. Forget not his blessings to me". O Lord, the source of all goodness and blessings, we thank you for all the protection and blessings given to your daughter and the child given to us. O Lord who was born as a child and blessed the children holding them to your breast, bless this child also. Bring up this child without any misfortune. Help us to bring up this child according to your will. May this child grow up and become worthy to serve the church and the society. May this child grow up as it is written about you. " The child grew, was filled with wisdom, was strengthened in spirit and the grace of God was upon him". Grant the child the necessary grace, strength and growth. May we glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever Amen.

45

WHEN A CHILD IS TAKEN FOR BAPTISM

St. Mk. 10:13-16

O God who gave Hannah a child, and saved Moses in his infancy, you have special aims about every child. May the Holy Spirit strengthen this child. As the Holy Spirit strengthened John the Baptist from his infancy, may this child also be strengthened by the Holy Spirit to bear witness to you.

O Lord help this child to keep the promise which is going to be made in baptism. Help us to lead godly lives which will help the child to grow spiritually. May we glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever, Amen.

46

WHEN EDUCATION IS STARTED

Prov. 3:13-15 St. Lk. 2:41-51

O God, Father Son and Holy Spirit, as this child

created in your image, starts education, we seek your special blessings. As the child leaves the homely atmosphere and enters the school, let you be with him/her as a companion. Let him/her cultivate obedience to teachers, respect for elders and love for the students. Help him/her to gather spiritual and worldly knowledge. Help him/her to study enthusiastically. Cast away all evil passions from his/her mind and soul.

As the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples in the form of flames of fire and filled them with wisdom, may the Holy Spirit come upon him/her and fill him/her with wisdom. May he/she grow up in piety in all things. Guard him/her from sloth, diseases and bad company. May he/she become eager to serve you. Grant that we may glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever, Amen.

47

WHEN THE SCHOOL REOPENS

(Prov. 22:6)

O Lord you are with us as a good shepherd in all the departments of our life. You specially love and care for children. Bless your children who are going to school after the vacation. Help them to start their studies with new vision, new determination and with new enthusiasm. Strengthen the weak, give courage, to the timid. Grant wisdom and memory power to the mentally weak. Grant peace and goodwill to all in the school. Help the children to do their best in their studies. Help them to make the best use of time. Make them obedient and respectful.

Bless the teachers. Grant them health, sense of responsibility and love for children. May we glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever, Amen.

48

WHEN PREPARING FOR EXAMINATION

Ps. 23:1-6, 46:1

"യാഹെന്ന ദൈവം എന്നിടയനഹോ"

O Lord who has promised that you will be with us every day unto the end of the world, help us to realize your divine presence with us. Give courage to your son/daughter who is preparing for the examination. O Lord, who called the children and blessed them holding them to your breast, remove all fear, doubt and anxiety from your son/daughter. Help us to hear your words of comfort "Fear not, I am with you. Tremble not, I am your God. I will strengthen you. I will support you with my right hand of righteousness" (Ps. 41-10). O Lord who said to St. Paul "My grace is enough for you. My strength becomes perfect in your weakness", fill your son / daughter with your grace.

Grant the necessary memory power, discretion

and courage. Grant that he/she may make the proper use of time and write the answers in the best way and receive maximum success. May we glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever, Amen.

49

FOR THOSE WHO LIVE ABROAD

O God our Lord, we offer before you those who have gone abroad. Preserve them who live among people of other religions and languages. You protected Abraham the father of the faithful, from the swords of kings, you saved Lot from the fire of Sodom. You multiplied the possessions of Jacob in the house of Laban and made Joseph the lord of Egypt. In the same way, help your children and multiply their earnings. May your right hand, full of blessings be upon your children day and night and keep them in good health in body, mind and soul. May they be seen as your children with sinless life, full of virtures. Grant that we may live in

the light of your glory, now and always and for ever. Amen.

50

FOR THOSE WHO ARE IN DIFFICULTIES AND SORROWS

(Ps. 22:1-6, 57 : 1-3)

"യേശുദേവനെ, വാ....."

O God, exalted wonder - working and merciful, hear our prayers for your son/daughter who is in difficulties and sufferings. Remember your promise that you will never forsake any one who comes to you. As you answered the prayers of your saints, hear our prayers also. You have made the promise that you would hear our prayers. O Lord set right the way of our son/daughter and answer his/her petitions in your mercy. Cast out from him/her all enemies and deceitful evil spirits. O Lord, hold your weapons and shield and stand for our help. Protect us from all

sorrow, and dangers. Remove from your son/daughter fear, sorrow, sloth and all evil passions. Enlighten his/her body and soul by the Holy Spirit.

You are the one who fosters all living beings. You give food to the crying young ones of crows and adorns the lilies of the field. Feed your son/daughter from your abundant treasures. In the wilderness you satisfied the Israelites with Manna. You gave them to drink water from the rock. In the house of the widow in Sarafath, you multiplied the dough and the oil so that they never failed. O Lord remove the difficulties and multiply the belongings. Help your children to cater to the needs of others. When you find it is good that we should undergo sufferings, give us the hope that you can bring good out of sufferings. May we glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever, Amen.

51

FOR THE REPENTANCE OF THOSE IN EVIL HABITS

Prov. 23:20-35, Eph. 5:15-20, I cor. 6:9-11, Gal. 5:15-21

O Lord we pray for those who ruin their money, health and moral sense through drinking and those take pleasure in drinking and gradually become addicted. This must be really painful to you. Help them to get over this evil habit realising that they are forfeiting heaven. Let more people work against alcoholism, drugs and smoking. Let them understand the serious cesequences of drinking and completely withdraw from such habits. Help them to understad that the money given by God is not to be wasted for harmful things but for your glory and the benefit of your children. You had saved people like St. Augustine in their youth. May our prayers for the drunkards be effective like the prayers of the mother of St. Augustine. Help us to give a christian fellowship

and support to the drunkards so that they may be helped to take firm decisions and continue them. Grant that such families may be saved. Grant O Lord that we may glorify you, your Father and your Holy spirit now and always and for ever, Amen.

52

FOR RUNAWAYS

Ps. 139:1-9

O Lord, the Psalmist says "Behold how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in harmony". (Ps. 133:1) But in actual practice many families are in disharmony, quarrels and divisions. We present before you all those who run away from their homes, as they cannot with stand the harm done to them. Also there are those who leave their homes on account of poverty. Comfort them who are in sorrow on account of the separation from the family. Make the people repent. Protect the runaways from suicides, dangers

and from thiefs and robbers. Guard them from bad companies. Save them from disappointment by giving faith and hope in you. Help them to repent so that they may be reunited. Grant that those who have gone away may return like the prodigal son and that they may be welcomed. May we glorify you, your Father and the Holy Spirit now and always and for ever, Amen.

53

FOR THE CHILDLESS

I Sam. 1:1-20

O God our Lord, you are the creator of the whole mankind.You are almighty. The whole creation is under your control. You brought out water from the rock for the Israelites. Nothing is impossible for you. O Lord comfort your children who are childless. Hear their prayers. You gave children to Sara and Elizabeth in their old age. Rebeca was given twins. Hanna was given Samuel as a result of her continued

prayer and weeping. Hear O Lord the humble prayer of your servants. You told Martha if only she believed she would see the glory of God. O Lord faith is also your gift. Bless us with all your gifts so that we may glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever, Amen.

54

FOR PRISONERS

Gen. 40: 1-7, Ps. 46:1

"സീയോൻ സഞ്ചാരി ഞാൻ....."

O Lord who has promised that you will be with us every day, into the end of the world, help us to understand that you are with everyone of us at all times. The Psalmist tells us that you are our refuge and power, a present help in troubles. Help us to see your presence in times of difficulties and sufferings . You encouraged Joseph in person in Egypt. You used him to comfort the fellow prisoners. Help the prisoners to comfort one another. St. Paul praised you in the prison

at Philippi and converted the jailer. He spoke to the prisoners in Rome. Help the prisoners to help one another for good works.

If these prisoners are really deserving punishment, give them repentance. If they are innocent, give them the spirit of forgiveness to those who worked against them. Help all the prisoners to meditate on you and lead them to a dedicated life when they are freed. If they are sentenced to death help them to have a christian end. Like Lazarus who was at the gate of the rich man and as the robber who repented on the cross, give them the exalted position in heaven. Let them be not like the other robber on the cross who became more hardered. May the Holy Spirit comfort them.

Help us to visit the prisoners and pray for them. May we glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever, Amen.

55

PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Heb. 13:3

"യേശു എന്നടിസ്ഥാനം....."

O Lord who participates in all the experiences of our life and brings out good from all our sorrows, look upon your son/daughter in his/her weaknetss and illness. Grant that he/she may get healed through your grace. We know that dieseases come on account of our sinfulness and otherwise. Help us to use this time for self-examination and dedication.

O Lord the perfect physician, and one who is able to heal all kinds of diseases of the body, mind and soul, hear our prayers for your son/daughter who is in weakness and illness and seeking your mercy. It is you who gives wisdom to doctors, power to medicines and healing through medical treatments. You are also able to heal without medicines. Have mercy on your son/

daughter. May your guidance be with all the tests and treatments conducted here.

You were pleased at the prayer of the Cananite woman and healed her daughter. Seeing the faith of the four men who brought the paralytic, you healed him enabling him to take up his bed and go home. You healed many through your words. No one went away from you empty-handed. Now with faith we offer your son/daughter and pray. O Lord you are both the physician and the medicine. O Lord who gives all consolation, have mercy upon your son/daughter who is your creation. Forgive all the sins and short comings we have committed, knowingly or unknowingly. Perfect our faith. O Lord who had promised that you will never cast any one who comes to you, hear our prayers and answer us. Make him/her praise you unceasingly. You are kind, merciful and perfect physician. May the prayers of your mother and all the saints be a strong hold for us all. May we glorify you,

your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever, Amen.

56

IN THE TIME OF PESTILENCE

Ex. 9: 1-6

O Lord you have created all things necessary for human life and you sustain everyone. In you we live, more and have our being. O Lord you rebuked the tempest and made sea of Galile calm, and saved those in the boat. All the creatures obey you. Have mercy on the men and the animals who perish due to pestilence. Those smitten by the fiery serpents were saved as they looked upon the brazen serpent. As a result of the incense offered by Aaron, the pestilence was cast away. Now O Lord have mercy on us who are in suffering. Give us the faith that whatever happens to us in this world, we will be comforted and blessed in the other world like Lazarus.

O Lord grant that we may submit ourselves

entirely to your will and glorify you. Give us the faith, courage and love so that we may say like St. Paul, that if we live, we live to the Lord and if we die, we die to the Lord. May we glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever, Amen.

57

FOR THE CASTING AWAY OF DEMONS AND REMOVAL MENTAL DISEASES

St. Mk. 5:1-20, 9:14-29

O God, the creater and sustainer of all things we pray for the healing of your son/daughter. Have mercy on your son/daughter, created in your image. According to your command, demons get out, diseases get healed. The whole creation submits to your word. Remove from your son/daughter all diseases and ailments and give hope, courage and health.

Your Only begotten Son cast away demons from the demon possessed in Gedera. In a similar way cast

away from your son/daughter all evil spirits and grant him/her health. Make him/her abode of the Holy Spirit. May your victorious cross be a fortress to your son/daughter. May all the medical treatment conducted on him/her be a success. Grant that we may glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever. Amen.

58

FOR THE HAUNTED HOUSE

Ex. 12:27-36

O Lord who controls all the visible and invisible forces, you calmed the tempest of the sea of Galilee. You cast out demons from the demon possessed. Now O Lord, the children of this house suffer from the demons. Come down O Lord and cast away the demons. Reveal O Lord to the world that the demons have no authority and power to act against you and hurt those who take refuge in your protection. Spread out the wings of your grace and protect this house. Permit not the

demons to enter our houses on account of our sins. May the sign of the cross cast out the demons and manifest your power. May we glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever, Amen.

59

PRAYER BEFORE MEDICAL SURGERY

Ps. 23, 121

O Lord all animate and inanimate things are in your palms. You understand the needs and sufferings of every one individually and sustain them. We thank you for the grace that sustained us till now. O Lord who promised us that you will be with us every day unto the end of the world, help us to see you with our internal eyes, your presence and power here and now. Physicians are only instruments in your hands. The result of the surgical operation depends on your mercy. Continue to work in all those who participate in this

operation. Give them discretion, presence of mind and skill.

You are our refuge, strength and fortress. You are a present help in sufferings. Hence help your son/ daughter, to see you in the dark valleys and dedicate himself/herself into your hands. O Lord who passed through many sufferings in body and mind, and overcame them, you are able to guide us in all sufferings. O merciful Lord, who said "peace I leave with you. My peace I give to you, Not as the world gives to you, do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled. Neither let them be afraid, "hold your son/ daughter in your breast. Grant that all things, big or small, done in the operation, be fruitful. May this son/ daughter, regain health and thank you for all the blessings and dedicate his/her life for your glory. May we glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever, Amen.

60

THANKS GIVING AFTER HEALING

Ps. 103:1-13

O Lord, the source of all goodness, blessings and healing, we thank you for the consolution and healing. We are unworthy sinners. But you do not punish and forsake us according to our sins and short comings. Instead, you blessed us. Let your special blessing be upon your son/daughter till he/she, gets completely recovered. Grant him/her all the blessings in body mind and souls.

O Lord, who promised the disciples that you would be with them all the days of their lives unto the end of the world and was with them wherever they went, grant that you may be with this son/daughter wherever he/she goes. Grant that this son/daughter may comfort those who are in sufferings and sickness, with a heart full of thanks to you. May we glorify you your

Father and your Holy Spirit now and always for ever, Amen.

61

FOR THE PATIENT IN TERMINAL STAGE

Ps. 23

O Lord, who bears our burdens as the God of our salvation, help us to remember the promises of the other world. O Lord you said "In my Father's house are many mansions. Otherwise I would have told you. I am going to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I would come again and gather you; so that where I am, you also will be with me (St. Jn. 14:1-3)

Help us to visualize the glory of the Father's house. St. Paul says " What no eye has seen nor ear heard, nor the heart of man has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him" (II Cor. 2:9). St. John speaks of a great multitude which no man

could number from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne, and before the lamb, clothed in white robes with palm branches in their hands and crying out with a loud voice. St John continues to say that one of the elders said these are they who have come out of the great tribulation they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night within his temple and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. They shall hunger no more; neither thirst any more; the sun shall not strike them, nor any searching heat. For the lamb in the midst of the throne , will be their shepherd and he will guide them to the spring of living water and God will wipe away every tear in their eyes"May your son/daughter hear the joyful salutation given to those on the right hand side". Come O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world "(Rev.

25:34). As your son/daughter is coming to you, help him/her to see the gloies of the world to come. Give him/her the peace, hope and courage. Forgive him/daughter all his/her sins from childhood. As the father received the prodigal son. receive this son/daughter also. Reward him/her as the servant who came at the eleventh hour. O Lord as you committed your spirit to the Father at the time of your death, help this son/daughter to commit himself/ herself into your hands. Accept him/her into paradise as the robber on the cross. Send the angels of pece and encourage him/her O Lord who promised "Him that cometh unto me, I will in no wise cast out, you accept every one unconditionally. O Lord who said "come unto me all who labour and are heavy loden, I will give you rest" (St. Matt. 11:28) give your son/daughter, the assurance of the forgiveness of sins, peace and joy. Grant that we may glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever, Amen.

62

PRAYER AT THE HOUR OF DEATH, AFTER SAYING THE NICENE CREED

Leader :- I believe in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

(Congregation - Amen)

(This is said three times)

Leader:- O Lord Jesus Christ, remember us when you come with your saints in the glory of your kingdom

Congregation :- Amen

Leader :- O Lord accept the soul of your son/ daughter in the place of salvation prepared for him/her

Amen.

O Lord save your son/daughter from the sorrows of hades

Amen.

O Lord, as you delivered Enosh and Elijah from bodily death, save the soul of this son/daughter
Amen.

O Lord as you saved Noah and his family from the flood, save the soul of your son/daughter
Amen.

O Lord, as you delivered Abraham from the Chaldeans,save the soul of this son/daughter
Amen.

O Lord as you saved Isaac from the sacrifice of his father, save the soul of this son/daughter
Amen.

O Lord who delivered Lot from the fire of Sodom and Gomorah, save the

soul of this son/daughter
Amen.

O Lord as you delivered Moses the chief among the prophets from the hands of Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, save the soul of this son/daughter
Amen.

O Lord as you saved Shadrak, Mesak and Abednego from the furnace, save the soul of your son/daughter
Amen.

O Lord as you saved Daniel from the den of the lions, save the soul of your son/daughter
Amen.

O Lord as you delivered St. Peter and St. Paul from the prison, save the

soul of your son/daughter
Amen.

O Lord as you received the robber on the cross to paradise, receive the soul of your son/daughter to paradise
Amen.

O Lord be kind enough to save the soul of your son/daughter and receive him/ her into eternal bliss
Amen.

63

FOR THOSE IN BEREAVEMENT

St.Jn. 11:32-35, 2 Cor. 5:9-10, Rev. 7:9-17

O merciful Father, O Lord who shed tears at the tomb of Lazarus and Holy Spirit the comforter, we come to you for consolation. Grant us consolation in the midst of our sorrows. O! Lord who was tempted like us in

every way without sin, you know our pains and sorrows. In you only we take refuge. You have called us saying "come unto me all who labour and are heavy laden, I will give you rest". St. Peter says, since you cares for us, we should cast all our burdens on you. Help us to cast all our burdens on you and submit to your will. Give us the faith that these sufferings will turn out for our ultimate good. Grant that the vaccum created by the absence of your son/daughter be filled by your presence. We thank you for all the good your son had done for the family, church and the society. Help us to follow that good example. Help the members of the family to bring to perfection the good works started by your son/daughter. Help him/her to see your light and abide in you and grow to perfection. Grant him/her the grace to please you and worship you ceaselessly.

O Lord grant that we who are left in this world may get prepared for death. May our end be at any

time, place and manner, decided by you. May we glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always for ever, Amen.

64

MEMORIAL OF THE FAITHFUL

II Cor. 5:1-10, Rev. 7:9-17

Comfort O Lord the soul of your son/daughter who has come to you, having separated from the body. Forgive all the sins and shortcomings in his/her life. Grant that your son/daughter may rejoice with your saints when you appear in glory. May he/she stand before your throne and worship you day and night. May the prayers of your son/daughter be a stronghold for us. May he/she please you in the other world as he/she had pleased you in this world. Grant that he/she may understand your will more, get purified and continue to grow. Grant that he/she may be strengthened to fight against the evil forces.

O Lord who said "I am the resurrection and life, grant resurrection of glory to your son/daughter. May he/she hear the joyful greeting " O blessed of my Father, come in and inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the begining of the world".

We thank you for all the good your son/daughter has done for the family and the church, the good example he/she has set before us, the good advice given by him/her. Help us to follow the good example and complete the good works started by him/her. O Lord who said " In my Father's house are many mansions. Otherwise I would have told you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and gather you, so that you will be with me where I am . Help us to get prepared for death every day, remembering that this world is temporary and that it is only a place of preparation for the other world. May we glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit, now and always, for ever, Amen.

65

PRAYER ON THE MEMORIAL DAY OF THE CLERGY

Acts. 20:17-38, Heb. 13:17

O Lord who removed our spiritual death through your bodily death, and who raises up all those in the tombs, we pray to you when we celebrate the memorial of your bishop/priest / deacon in the heavenly Jerusalem; they obeyed your commandments and won your affection more than anything else. Make him participate in the heavenly feast along with the ancient fathers. Adorn him with glory at your second coming as he had committed himself into your hands during his life time and at the moment of his death. May this bishop/priest who bore your yoke in his life time, loved you, conducted the holy sacraments and bore your body and blood in his arms, rejoice in your bridal chamber. May he rejoice along with the prophets,

praise you along with the apostles, bless you along with the holy priests and offer praise unceasingly along with the deacons of true faith. Grant that he may be seen along with the children of light. May we glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always for ever Amen.

66

PRAYERS TO ST. MARY FOR HER INTERCESSION

St. Jn. 2:1-11 Rev. 7:15 St. James 5:16

O blessed mother, who was selected to bear the Lord, may your intercession be a stronghold for us. Peace be with you who became worthy to carry the creator. Just as the Lord turned water into wine through your intercession, may the Lord transform our lives to godly love through your intercession. May the sick be healed, and those in sorrow be comforted, May the crops be freed from pestilence and our children

become god fearing. May our children be freed from all vicious habits and grow up in obedience and piety. May our youngsters be guarded from pitfalls. May they be strengthened in virtues and works of charity. May the aged and the lovely have peace and happiness through your prayers. Through your prayers may the strifes and disputes in the families and society be cast away. May we all be loving, forgiving and respecting one another. May we glory to you, your Father and your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever, Amen.

67

PRAYER FOR THE INTERCESSION OF SAINTS

St. James 5:16, II Kings 13:20-21

O (St. Thomas) our beloved father, peace be with you. You are the great treasury granting helps to all those in sorrow and suffering. Our Lord abides in you and you in Him. O honest steward of God, pray for us, that we may receive mercy and forgiveness of sins and

that we may follow your godly life. May the Lord cast away all diseases, loosen the bonds, straighten our paths and make our works fruitful. Give the students intellegence and hard-working habit. Grant success to those seeking jobs. Bless the farmers and those who do business. Remove from us idle and pleasure seeking life. Grant that we are filled with love and generosity. May we glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever, Amen.

68

PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH

Acts. 20:28

O Lord who offered your own blood to save the church and made the church your bride, hear our prayer. Make us a holy priesthood so that we may be enabled to offer sacrifies pleasing to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Make us obedient like the members of a body to the head. Help us to bear fruit like the

branches getting mourishment from the main trunk. Protect your sheep from Satan and evils. O Lord who came to give us abundant life, grant that we may receive forgiveness of sins and become godly. Help us to make disciples of all nations.

Grant that we may be filled with the fruit of the Spirit, casting away all selfishness, worldliness and divisions. Help us to have the union among ourselves just like the union between the Father and the Son in order that the world may believe that the Father has sent the Son. Let this union become effective between the husbands and wives, between parents and children, between the owners and workers, among various religions, among various political parties and among various nations.

O Lord who has told us that there are many mansions in the Father's house and that you are

going to prepare a place for us, help us to prepare ourselves for the Father's house.

Bless all the attempts to enhance the spiritual life of the church and strengthen all spiritual organisations of the church. Bless the gospel work and works of charity. May we glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever Amen.

69

PRAYER FOR THE PARISH

St. Jn. 21:15-17, 14:1-3

O Lord, we pray for our parish, its priest (priests), those who serve in the sanctuary, those who work in the spiritual movements, for all the families and members of the parish. Give us the vision that our citizenship is in heaven and that we are the pilgrims on our way to the promised land. Make us ideal parents, and couples with true love and children with obedience.

Help us to get filled with the desire and craving to do your will, casting away all that is bad. Bless all our good works. Bless all those who work in different fields, officers, doctors, nurses, paramedical workers, advocates, teachers, factory workers, farmers etc. Strengthen us to do your will in the face of adverse circumstances. Let there be a complete transformation in all of us, irrespective of age. Help us to walk in the path of righteousness. Let us not be satisfied with rituals and ceremonies. Let people see our good works and give you glory. Let there be mutual love, forgiveness and respect among the members of a family and among various families like the members of the same body. May our life here on earth be a preparation for the life after death. May we glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit in every thing now and always and for ever, Amen.

70

PRAYER FOR THE CLERGY

Eph. 6:18-20

O Lord our God, bless all the bishops, priests and deacons who give us the necessary advice and tend us in green pastures. Especially we pray for our bishops, priests and deacons. May their words and works be for your glory. Give them the necessary administrative power. Help us to obey them and co-operate with them. May their relationship with people and the relation of the people with them be one of love and respect. Give them the ability to face the heretics who are wolfs wearing the garb of sheep. Make them good shepherds who participate in the joys and sorrows of people and ready to suffer for the people. Give them the sense of responsibility that they are accountable before you about each sheep. Enable them to give proper counselling to people

according to their needs. Comfort them and encourage them. Help them to lead ideal lives as St. Paul said "Be imitators of me as I am imitator of Christ. Grant that they may be greeted by you along with those who multiplied their talents saying "Good and honest servant". May we glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever Amen.

71

PRAYER FOR THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARIES

St. Mk. 3:13-19, St. Lk. 6:12-13; Acts 2:1-4

O Jesus Christ, you are the real teacher. You selected your disciples, and you gave them wisdom and training, and filled them with the Holy Spirit and gave them the authority to work as your representatives. Now bless the theological seminaries which give training for the ministry of the church. Fill the teachers and students with your grace. Help the students to understand that priesthood is your call

rather than a profession. May this seminaries be a place of getting training in winning souls. Give the students proper wisdom and a life of repentance. Strengthen them to conduct the sacraments properly and heal the sick. Give them a compassionate heart which can rejoice with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep. Help them to give repentance and hope to people. Give them the hunger and thirst for souls. Let them be like good soldiers, honest stewards, hard-working ministers and kind shepherds. May we glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever Amen.

72

PRAYER FOR THE ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT

St. Jn. 10:16, 17:21

O Lord, the good shepherd who said that we will become one herd of sheep and that you will be the

one shepherd, you desire that all of us should become one in true faith and love. You prayed that all the believers should be in union so that the world might believe that the Father has sent you. Now not only the various churches are not united, they are all in competition, acting as enemies. Help them to understand one another through dialogues. Grant that they respect one another as far as possible. Help them to work together for the common good of mankind Let not any church resort to illegitimate ways by sheep stealing.

Grant O Lord that all divisions, heresies, competitions and litigations may cease and union according to your will may take place. May the work of W.C.C. bear fruit. May the W.C.C. raise up its voice against all injustice. May the various churches work together as members of the same body for your glory. May we offer glory to you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever, Amen.

73

PRAYER FOR THE HOSPITALS

Ps. 103:3

"അൻപു നിറഞ്ഞ പൊന്നേശുവേ!....."

O Lord, the heavenly physician, you are the source of healing. You heal through medicines and without medicines. It is you who gives the knowledge of the healing power of medicines. Technical knowledge, the skill of the workers and their readiness to work are all your gifts. Help the workers to depend on your guidance. Make them work with love, compassion and endurance. In times of overwork and fear, may they shine as lamps of hope. Help them to see the patients as your own children and love them. May this hospital be a means to see your glory and make people believe in your love and power.

May those who get healed, thank you and dedicate themselves for a new life glorifying you. Grant continued faith to those who fail to get healed. May we

glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and ever, Amen.

74

PRAYER FOR MEDICAL, NURSING AND PARAMEDICAL STUDENTS

St. Lk. 10: 1-9

O Lord, the heavenly physician, you selected your disciples and sent them to preach the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick. Along with the preaching the disciples healed the sick. The knowledge necessary in the medical, nursing and paramedical services comes from you. Bless your children who have come for studies. Help them to do everything out of love for you. May we glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever, Amen.

75

WELFARE CENTRES FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

St. Matt. 18: 1-5

O merciful Lord, you were born from a woman

and the curse which came through a woman was removed. In the time of your public ministry, you welcomed the services of Mary Magdalene and the sisters of Lazarus, namely Martha and Mary. Children were held to your breast and you blessed them. You entrusted the children to the care of the church. Hence it is the duty of the church to start welfare centers for women and children

Bless those who work for the education of women and those who nurse the pregnant. Bless all the efforts to prevent the diseases that might come to women and children. Bless all that is done for the better health of women and children. Bless all those who work in hospitals, old age homes and children's homes. Help the workers to serve with kindness and dedication. As your mother dedicated herself saying "I am the handmaid (slave) of God, be it to me according to your word". May we dedicate ourselves to your service in

humility . May we glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever, Amen.

76

PRAYER FOR CHILDREN'S HOMES

St. Matt. 18: 1-5

O Lord our God, you love every one irrespective of caste and age. Help us to love people as you love them. You called children and blessed them holding them to your breast. You entrusted children to the care of the church, saying to St.Peter "Feed my lambs". Help us to see all children as your own children and do everything possible for their welfare especially the physically handicapped and mentaly retarded. May we glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever, Amen.

77

PRAYER FOR OLD AGE HOMES

Micah 6:8 St. James 1:27

O God who feeds the crying little young ones of the crow and adorns the iilies of the field, you care most for the human beings created in your image. You desire that human beings should bear one another's burdens in brotherly affection. On account of various reasons men and women become destitute in their old age. Bless the homes for the aged started for the poor and disowned. You will say at the end of the world, what we have done to the least among us as done for you. Help us to serve the old and destitutes remembering that what we do for them will be counted as done to you.

Help us to see the mental tensions of those coming from different backgrounds with their own stress and strains and try to console them. Let the old

people thank you for whatever help they get, without self pity and disappointment. Help them to love and respect one another. May we glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever, Amen.

78

PRAYER FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

St. Mat. 23:6-8

"എൻ യേശു എൻ സംഗീതം....."

O Lord our God, you are the source of all wisdom, knowledge and discretion; you are the teacher of all teachers. You have given the power of discretion to man created in your image. The wisdom given to man is handed over from generation to generation. Bless the schools and colleges where wisdom and knowledge are handed over. Strengthen the teachers to do their duties. In addition to handling over of knowledge, help the teachers to bring out and develop

the hidden abilities of children . Help the teachers in developing the character of students. Make the teachers good examples to follow. May this institution be a beacon light to this country. May toleration and respect among various religions be fostered here. May this school mould many children fit for the building up of this country and the Kingdom of God.

May the students grow in the fear of God and of the fear of teachers. May the teachers love the students as thier own children and teach sincerely with love and self control. Grant that all the students and teachers be in love and unity; cast away all that hinders the study and character formation. May we offer glory to you, your Father and your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever, Amen.

79

PRAYER FOR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES

I Timothy 5:8

O Lord Jesus Christ, full of compassion and affection, we pray for all our dear ones. We thank you for their love and help. Help us to love them more than they love us.

O Lord help us to see our enemies also as your children and love them on account of your love for us. May we offer glory to you, your Father and your Holy Spirit, now and always for ever, Amen.

80

PRAYER FOR WORLD PEACE

I Tim. 2:1-2, Ex. 3:7-10

St. Matt 5:9 Is. 11:1-9

"പാടി പുകഴ്ത്തിടാം ദേവദേവനെ....."

O Lord who said that you have come to give us

abundant life, you rejoice in the all-round progress and peace of the world. You don't like to see any country or community to suffer on account of injustice. You delivered Israelites from their bondage in Egypt. You don't like to see any country or any community to be slaves of another country. Help us to foster a brotherly relationship among countries and communities. Grant that there may be co-operation among various nations, various political parties, among various religions and various denominations in religions. O Lord who said that he who takes the sword will perish by the sword, grant peace to the whole world. Put an end to cold wars and accumulation of ammunitions. May the huge amounts spent for ammunition be stopped and used for removing unemployment and fighting against diseases. May peace loving leaders rise up every where. Strengthen those who work for world peace. Make all. lovers of peace. May we glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever, Amen.

81

NEW YEAR DAY

Ezek : 18:21-24, St. Jn. 9:4

"ആത്മാവാം വഴികാട്ടി....."

O Lord, the God of our salvation, and one who leads us from generation to generation, we thank you for having brought us to the begining of another year. Help us to look forward and backward and go forward concentrating on the present tense.

Grant that we may realize that all our success was primarily due to your help and guidance and offer thanks to you. Also grant that we may not get disappointed due to our failures in the past. Help us to concentrate in the present time and do our best with new decisions, new strength and new visions. Be with us in theun known future and guide us through trials and temptations. Help us to live according to your will. Grant that we work depending on your strength and

guidance. Help us to do everything in love and glorify you in everything.

O Lord because you made the best use of time and did everything in the best ways, you were able to say "It is finished" at the time of your death. As a result of doing our best, make every yesterday a dream of happiness and every tomorrow a vision of hope. Grant O Lord that we may realize that this world is not permanent and that this is only a time of preparation for the eternal world. May we hear the call "Good and faithful servant" and enjoy eternal bliss prepared for us. May we offer glory to you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always for ever, Amen.

82

ON BIRTHDAY

Ps. 90:12, St. Jn. 9:4

O heavenly Father, the source of life, we thank you for all the blessings and guidance granted to your

son/daughter till now. Grant your love, affection, protection, till the end of his/her life. Let you be his/her helper and guardian in all trials. Protect him/her from accidents, poverty and diseases. Remove from him/her all sufferings in body, mind and soul. Save him/her from the troubles of the evil spirits, the tribulations of evil men and the traps of jealous people. Grant the power to overcome all obstacles and nourish him/her as a son/daughter of light.

Keep him/her in peace and tranquility all the days of his/her life. May his/her mind be stabilized in you, may his/her faith be strengthened and his/her love inflamed. Multiply all his/her income. Adorn him/her with a virtuous life. May he/she inherit your kingdom. As he/she has passed one more year in his/her life, help him/her to enter the new year with new decisions and new vision. May we offer glory to you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always for ever. Amen.

83

PRAYER FOR ORDINARY SUNDAYS

Colo. 3:1-17

How great and glorious is the Lord. As Sunday is more important than all other days he who observes it with faith and piety is blessed. Heaven and earth rejoice on Sunday in which death is put to death. The departed received consolation and living received hope. Grant that we may not be wordly and slothful bringing disgrace to you. Grant that we may glorify you remembering that we are redeemed from our slavery. O Lord grant that we may shine with holiness, praise you with good deeds pleasing to you, and meditate on the Holy Bible with joy and obey your commandments. O Lord, we have entered into a new week. Grant that we lay a good foundation for the works of this week. Grant that we offer ourselves through the Holy Qurbana and we may receive you into our hearts afresh. May

we be filled with the Holy Spirit. Grant that we may meditate more and more on heavenly things, rather than earthy things. May we glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever, Amen.

84

PRAYER FOR THE NATION ON REPUBLIC DAY

Rom. 13:1-7, I Timo. 2:1-2

O Lord, the king of kings we pray for our motherland India. We thank you for freeing our country from the British rule and unifying it as a republic. St. Paul has taught us that we must submit to the government and that there is no authority other than that from God. He has asked us to pray for kings. Hence on this Republican Day, we pray for the whole country, for all in goverment service and for all the institutions that work for its progress.

Give the government officials honesty and love

for the people. Make the judges impartial. May those who work in factories and farms work with the aim of the progress of the country. May those who work in hospitals be kind to the patients. May the educational institutions work for the personality development and character formation. May the people of various religions and languages love, respect and co-operate. May the couples and children be faithful, loving and united. May all the vicious habits which ruin the health and finance of people be completely eradicated. May liquor, drugs, smoking, immorality, violence, injustice, corruption and favouritism be removed. Help our country to work for universal peace. May we glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit, now and always for ever, Amen.

85

PRAYER FOR ANTILIQUOR PROPAGANDA

Prov. 23:20-35, Eph. 5:5-20

I cor. 6:9-11, Gal. 5:19:21

O Lord, we pray for those who are addicted to drinking, drugs and smoking which ruin wealth, health and morality. We also pray for those who are on the way to addiction. It is really painful to you who loves your children dearly. Deliver them from drinking, drugs and smoking. Help them to make a firm decision not to drink even a bit at any time and help them to follow that decision. Help them to understand the serious consequences of liquor leading to incurable diseases. Make them understand that the money given by God is not to be wasted on liquor, drugs and smoking, but to be used for the glory of your name and the welfare of mankind. You saved St. Augustine from all kinds of vicious habits in his youth. Give your son/daughter Christian fellowship and support through the well-wishers. Help us to pray continuously for such people. May we offer glory to you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always, for ever, Amen.

86

PRAYER ON THE WORKERS' DAY

(Fourth Sunday after the festivel of the Assumption of St. Mary)

O Lord, you gave work to Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden as it was necessary for their well being.

Various talents are given to us, so that we can work together for the common good of mankind. People work like the members of the same body for the common good. Give us the understanding that both the employers and employees are your children. Let the employers try to understand the problems of the employers. In the same way let the employees also tray to understand the problems of the employers. Help the employees and employers work for the benefit of both sides. Let them consider work as a duty before God. Let both parties understand that money is not the important thing but the loving relationship among

people. Let the employers and the employees remember that this world is only a preparation for the coming world and live accordingly. May we glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever.

87

THREE DAYS LENT

Jonah 3:8-10, 4:11, St. Matt. 12:41

O Lord, you had compassion on the numerous people who were so ingnorant as not able to distinguish between the right hand and left hand. You had compassion on the numerous animals also of Nineveh. Hence you sent Jonah the prophet to preach repentance. You are always grieved over the sinners and you are waiting for their repentance. O Lord you shed tears looking on Jerusalem. You desire purity of heart more than rituals and ceremonies. O Lord who said that the heavenly hosts rejoice at the repentance of sinners; Grant us repentance.

The Ninevites repented hearing the sermon of Jonah. But we continue in hard-heartedness and self justification even though we hear your words daily. O Holy Spirit who convicts us of sin, righteousness and judgement, give us repentance. Help us to pray earnestly. Help us to hunger and thirst after righteousness. Help us to tide over the traps of Satan. Strengthen us to fight against sin up to death. May we offer glory to you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always, for ever, Amen.

88

THE GREAT LENT

Ex. 34:28, I Kings 19:8, St. Matt. 4:2, 9:15, 17:21

Gal. 5:24, I cor. 9:27

O Lord, help us to crucify the old man and to follow your foot steps especially in these days of the lent which is the preparation to celebrate the festivels

of your death and resurrection. You said that when the bride groom is with the wedding guests, they cannot fast and when the bride groom is taken away, they would fast. Help us to fast in the manner of your disciples. Grant that we fast and gain spiritual strength from you.

O Lord, you have told your disciples that the demons will not get out except through fasting and prayer. In order to cast out Satan we take refuge in lent . May this lent be a fortress and a companion for us. O Lord you overcame bodily desires, the craving for praise and craving to possess things. You accepted the way of self sacrificing love. Grant that we may overcome all the temptations through you and get filled with self sacrificing love. Grant that we may be filled with obedience even upto death. May we glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever, Amen.

89

SUNDAYS IN THE GREAT LENT

St. Lk. 7:18:23

O Lord who healed the bodily and mental diseases of those who approached you with faith and granted health, heal our diseases of sin and make us worthy to rejoice in the festivels of Pesaha and resurrection. Just as water was turned into sweet wine, fill us with the wine of divine love. Help us to do everything in love and get filled with love. Casting away all the diseases of the soul like selfishness, revenge, anger, jealousy and immorality, fill us with the fruit of the Spirit.

Cast away our spiritual paralysis; strengthen us to fight against evil and to do deeds of love zealously. Enable us to say that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. Cast away from us all evil spirits like revenge, anger jealousy, pride, and

immorality and help us to walk in the path of love and holiness.

Straigten our bent back so that we may be freed from our selfishness and look up to heaven and to others. Open our spiritual eyes so that we may see others as God's children and fellow beings and identify with them.

Grant that we may glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever, Amen.

90

LEPER'S SUNDAY

St. Lk. 5: 12-16, 13:1-5

O Lord who healed a man who was filled with leprosy, we offer to you all lepers for your blessings. Have pity on those who are separated from their families and live in hospitals or in loneliness Console those who have the guilt complex that this diseases

may be the punishment for their sins. May the treatments conducted on them be fruitful. Just as Lazarus who was at the gate of the richman was taken to Abraham's bosom, may the lepers have the hope that they will be freed completely from the disease in the other world.

O Lord who said that the Galileans who were killed by Pilate and those who died by the fall of the tower in Jerusalem were not worse sinners, help us to understand the sick are not sinners worse than we who are healthy. Grant that we understand that any disease can come to any one. Make us realize the truth that whatever we do to the sick will be considered as done to you. Bless the hospitals, rehabilitation centres and research centres. Also heal us from the leprosy of sin. May we glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever, Amen.

91

FOR THE YOUTH LEAGUE

Eccl. 12:1

O Lord Jesus Christ who worked as a Carpenter in your youth and started your public ministry as a youth, we pray for the youths. Strengthen the youths in this age where there is the possiblity to fall into all kinds of sins. Help your children to realize your blessings and thank you for their health, intelligence, education and different talents. As David asked "What shall I render to the Lord for all his bounty to me"?, fill our children with gratitude.

O Lord you said that you have to do the work of Him who sent you while it is day, and that night comes when no one can work. Thus you made the best use of time and worked for our salvation. Grant that we may work for your children selflessly. Grant that we may work joyfully for others following your example. You

said "My meet is to do the work of him who sent me and accomplish his task". Avoiding short temper, and prejudices, help us to identify ourselves with people, and love, them forgive them and respect them. Help them to overcome the temptations of the world. Help them to avoid liquor, drugs and smoking. Help them to do propaganda against these evil habits. Help them to hear your call and dedicate themselves to your call. Bless the office-bearers of the youth league. May we glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always for ever, Amen.

92

PRAYER DURING THE TEN DAYS BEFORE PENTECOST

St. Lk. 11:13 Act 2:38, 5:32, Gal. 5:22-23

O Lord you asked your disciples to tarry in Jerusalem till they receive power from heaven, and told them that another comforter coming from the Father

will be sent to them to abide with them for ever. The disciples waited for the Holy Spirit and were filled with him. In a similar way we are waiting for the renewal and filling of the Holy Spirit. On the day of Pentecost, there was a sudden sound like that of a tempest, the Holy Spirit was seen as flames of fire and they descended on each of them. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke about the miracles of God in different languages. Grant that we also may be filled with the Holy Spirit and receive the gifts of the Spirit. O Lord you said "If you then who are evil, know to give good gifts to your children, how much more will be heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him" O Lord help us to hunger and thirst after the Holy Spirit and to get filled with Him. Help us to continue to be filled with Him through prayer, repentance and obedience. O Holy Spirit get kindled in us. Lead us in the path of righteousness and convict us of sin, righteousness and judgement. O Holy Spirit who prays

on our hehalf with groanings which cannot be uttered, teach us to pray. Fill us with the fruit of the Spirit. Grant that we may glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always, for ever, Amen.

93

ON SUNDAY SCHOOL DAY

Prov. 22:6

O Lord, we pray for the Sunday School teachers and students. You love the children and fondle them. You said "Let children come to me, prevent them not, the Kingdom of God is of such". You blessed them. Help us to understand the depth of your love. You told St. Peter "Feed my lambs". Help us to teach and train your children. Help us to strengthen the Sunday School, Bala Samajam and Balika Samajam. May there be a christian atmosphere in houses, churches, and schools. Help us to show our children good examples of men and women.

As Samuel was brought up properly by his mother Hannah and later by the priest Eli, may our children get strengthened spiritually. As Moses who had special training in the palace may our children also get the best training in Sunday School. As the three children in Babylon had self-imposed discipline may our children have self-imposed discipline. Just as it is written about John the Baptist, "And the child grew and became strong in spirit" may our children grow spiritually.

Just as it is written about the child Jesus, "And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and with favour with God and man", may our children have alround growth. May the Holy Spirit given to our children continue to strengthen them.

May love, sympathy and the spirit of forgiveness, of hard-work, of obedience and of respect be fostered in their life like the children who sang Hosana to you,

let our children grow in piety and dedicate their life for your glory.

May the teachers do their work as the most pleasing work before you Bless our Sunday School, O.V.B.S, all the office bearers staff and children. May we offer glory to you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever.

94

PRAYER IN THE APOSTOLIC LENT

(St. Mk. 3 : 13-15)

O Lord, you made disciples of fisher folk who were uneducated. You appointed them to catch men. You gave them the privilege to abide with you and the authority to preach the gospel and to cast out demons. You sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. You made them witnesses of your resurrection. You commanded them to make disciples

of all nations. On the day of Pentecost, they were filled with the Holy Spirit and became new creatures. The uneducated became filled with wisdom to the wonder of philosophers, cowards became brave, those who wanted to become the first became "one heart and one soul". St. Peter who healed the lame man became so humble as to say that it was not his power or piety that healed that man. He also said in sympathy "Brethren, I know you acted in ignorance as did also your rulers" (Acts. 3:17) without condemning them. He said humbly to corrections. "Stand up I am also a man when he prostrated before St. Peter. O Lord, give us also the spirit of union, humidity and sympathy. Help us to witness to your saving power like St. Peter, St. Paul, St. Thomas and all other apostles. Make us worthy to make disciples of all nations.

May we glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever, Amen.

95

PRAYER FOR THE MISSION SUNDAY

Acts. 1:8

"കുഞ്ഞാട്ടിൻ തിരു രക്തത്താൽ ....."

O Lord who was sent by the Father so that no one should perish, but that every one should receive eternal life, we are all called to witness you. Prepare us and equip us to do gospel work. You have promised that you will be with us every day unto the end of the world, strengthen us and guide us daily. As St. Paul, Aquilas and Prescilla worked with thier own hands and earned a livelihood and at the same time did gospel work, help us also to do gospel work along with our own work.

Bless the Servants of the Cross, the mission centres and Thadagan Ashram. Grant that in each parish there may be missionary workers. May we glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit, now and always, for ever, Amen.

96

PRAYER IN THE 15 DAYS LENT

St. Lk. 1:38, 41-48, 11: 27-28, St. Jn. 2:1-11

O Lord, since your mother had forsaken all worldly pleasures and was filled with all virtues, she was selected as your mother, Grant that we also forsake all worldly pleasures through lent. May we get filled with love, humility and purity. May we also become worthy to be your temple. Your mother said to the angel " I am the handmaid of the Lord, be it according to your word". Help us to hear your call every moment and submit to your will. Your mother never grumbled, got angry or cursed any one even in the midst of unbearable sufferings. Help us to follow her example and endure all sufferings quietly casting everything on you. According to your mother's request you solved the problem of the shortage of wine. In a similar way help us to overcome our lack of virtues

through the intercession of your mother. Let us also follow your mother's example and bless many through our intercession. As your mother fasted and prayed along with others, in the upper chamber of Jerusalem, let us also fast and pray in this lent. Grant that we may glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever.

97

PRAYER ON THE MARTH MARIAM SAMAJAM DAY

Prov. 14:1, St. Lk. 8:1-3

O Lord help us to understand the importance of women and their responsibilities. The progress of any family or society depends mainly on the dedicated work of women. As the bringing up of children is mainly the work of women, their work is unique. Hence help us to understand the supreme importance of the education, health and spiritual growth of women. Grant that women take

an active part in church life as we find in the early church, in doing gospel work and works of charity. May they impart faith and hope to patients. May they lead the young in the right path. May they be fitting helpers to their husbands. May they bring up children in the way of the Lord. May they be hospitable. May they be kind to the poor. May they have humility, obedience, sympathy and holiness. May they shine as living examples. May we glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever, Amen.

98

SEMINARY DAY

St. Mk. 3:13-19, Lk. 6:12-13, Acts 2:1-4

O Jesus Christ, the true teacher, you selected your desciples for your work, you filled them with wisdom and gave proper training. They were given the authority to work as your representatives. Now bless our seminaries which are meant for the training of your

ministers. Fill the teachers and students with your grace. Help us to consider priestly work as your call and not as a profession. May our seminaries be a training ground to win souls. Give the students true repentance. Fill them with wisdom, strengthen them to conduct the sacraments, preach and heal. Give them the spirit of rejoicing with those who rejoice and weep with those who weep. Help them to make many repent. May they have hope and trust in you. May they have a real thirst for souls. Make them real spiritual soldiers, hard working stewards, honest servants and kind shepherds. Grant that we may glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever, Amen.

99

PRAYER FOR PARENTS' DAY

Ex. 20:12, I Tim 5:8

O Lord, who has commanded us to honour

our parents, we thank you for their love, affection and for all the good we get from them. Help us to be thankful to them, to love them dearly, to obey them whole heartedly and to please them by catering to their needs. Protect them from all diseases, sufferings and all unbearable pains. Help us to lead lives to their full satisfaction. May we glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever, Amen.

100

TWENTY FIVE DAYS LENT

St. Lk. 2:9-11, 14, Gal. 4:19-20

O Lord, when our first parents Adam and Eve sinned through eating the forbidden fruit, you said that the seed of the woman will bruise the head of the serpant. In the fulness of time you incarnated and put to death the serpant and saved mankind.

O Lord, you said that only through fasting and prayer will Satan and his hosts will be cast away. Help

us to overcome Satan and his hosts through this lent.

Along with abstinence, prayers, prostations, Holy confession and Holy communion, help us to overcome all evil passions and sins and put on love, humility and self control. Help us to rejoice in body and soul. You said that the Father abiding in you is doing his works" . Grant that you may abide in our hearts and guide us daily. May we offer glory to you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always, for ever, Amen.

101

AT THE END OF THE YEAR

Lk. 2:9-11, St. Jn. 15:1-8, Gal 4:19-20

Merciful Lord, we have come to the end of another year. We thank you for all the blessings which sustained us. You had loved us, strengthened us and protected us. We confess that even the smallest of things done by us, were done through your grace and strength.

But we have not loved you and obeyed you befitting your love for us. We have not made the full use of our abilities and opportunities. We have not come up to the high standard you expected. On the other hand, we had pained you and your children through our short-comings. Even then you never ignored us and did not stop providing us our needs. You were showing your grace upon us in your mercy.

O Lord purify us forgiving us all our sins. Destroy us not as the tree which did not produce fruit. Let us have a mortant in life us St. Paul says "Forgetting that which us behind, striking faith to the what lied ahead, I am running to the goal. Help us to utilize our talents to the maximum for the benefit of your children.

Grant that we may glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever Amen.

O Lord forgive us all our sins, sloth and impurity in us. Let us not be condemned like the fig tree which gave no fruit. Forgetting what lies behind and striving forward to what lies ahead, let us press on toward the goal set before us. May we glorify you, your Father and your Holy Spirit now and always and for ever, Amen.

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OCCASIONAL PRAYERS

By Mathews Mar Barnabas Metropolitan

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